

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 5 and 12 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and add the subject matter to claim 1 as follows.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) A metal carrier for a catalyst comprising:  
a honeycomb structure shaped in a cylindrical form, said honeycomb structure having a plurality of air vents extending in an axial direction thereof; and  
a cylindrical case covering an outer peripheral surface of the honeycomb structure, wherein the cylindrical case is composed of ferritic stainless steel containing Mo, said Mo content in the ferritic stainless steel is in the range of  $0.30 \text{ wt\%} \leq \text{Mo} \leq 2.50 \text{ wt\%}$ .
- ~~3. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 1, and further including a muffler housing wherein said cylindrical case is disposed within said muffler housing and is displaced a predetermined distance relative to an interior wall of the muffler housing to form a space therebetween.~~
4. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 1, wherein the honeycomb structure is constructed of ferritic stainless steel that does not contain Mo.
6. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 1, and further including a catalyst layer of a noble metal formed on the honeycomb structure.
7. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 6, wherein the noble metal is platinum.

Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein and add the subject matter to claim 8 as follows

8. (Amended) A metal carrier for a catalyst comprising:

a honeycomb structure having a catalyst layer formed thereon, said honeycomb structure having a plurality of air vents extending in a flow direction through the honeycomb structure; and

a cylindrical case covering an outer surface of the honeycomb structure, wherein the cylindrical case is composed of ferritic stainless steel containing Mo, said Mo content in the ferritic stainless steel is in the range of 0.30 wt%  $\leq$  Mo  $\leq$  2.50 wt%.

10. ~~The metal carrier~~ for a catalyst according to claim 8, and further including a muffler housing wherein said cylindrical case is disposed within said muffler housing and is displaced a predetermined distance relative to an interior wall of the muffler housing to form a space therebetween.

11. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 8, wherein the honeycomb structure is constructed of ferritic stainless steel that does not contain Mo.

13. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 8, wherein the catalyst layer is a noble metal formed on the honeycomb structure.

14. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 13, wherein the noble metal is platinum.

Please add the following claims:

-- 15. A metal carrier for a catalyst comprising:

a honeycomb structure shaped in a cylindrical form, said honeycomb structure having a plurality of air vents extending in an axial direction thereof; and

a cylindrical case covering an outer peripheral surface of the honeycomb structure, wherein the cylindrical case is composed of ferritic stainless steel containing Mo, said Mo content in the ferritic stainless steel is 1.2 wt%.

16. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 15, and further including a muffler housing wherein said cylindrical case is disposed within said muffler housing and is displaced a predetermined distance relative to an interior wall of the muffler housing to form a space therebetween.

17. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 15, wherein the honeycomb structure is constructed of ferritic stainless steel that does not contain Mo.

18. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 15, and further including a catalyst layer of a noble metal formed on the honeycomb structure.

19. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 18, wherein the noble metal is platinum.

20. A metal carrier for a catalyst comprising:  
a honeycomb structure having a catalyst layer formed thereon, said honeycomb structure having a plurality of air vents extending in a flow direction through the honeycomb structure; and

a cylindrical case covering an outer surface of the honeycomb structure, wherein the cylindrical case is composed of ferritic stainless steel containing Mo, said Mo content in the ferritic stainless steel is 1.20wt%.

21. The metal carrier for a catalyst according to claim 20, and further including a muffler housing wherein said cylindrical case is disposed within said muffler housing and is displaced a predetermined distance relative to an interior wall of the muffler housing to form a space therebetween.